

Spicy Late Summer Medals!

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One of our exploits from a recent trip to the farmers' market included some Thai chili peppers—a very welcome addition to our cooking arsenal, as the peppers available up to this point have been on the milder side. Pleasant, but still mild. These Thai chilis, however, certainly supply the requisite number of fire emojis. Also supplying the spice are some of the medals in this mid-month upload, such as this silver award medal from the hand of Maurice Thénod, featuring a bare-chested female allegory for French agriculture...



Very provocative and direct in its imagery, this design served as a mid-century award in the field of agriculture. While versions in bronze are already difficult to come by, *and very popular when they show up*, examples in silver are very rare and hardly ever available. It features a quote from the Duke of Sully, who stated in 1638 that “...*plowing and grazing are the two teats of France.*”

Lest you think that it's just the female figure that served as an inspiration in the artistry of the medals offered here, there is this highly impressive and very ultra-modern three-piece medal from the iconic Kauko Räsänen...



While the image above features only one side of each of the three pieces (*which fit together to form on, very thick, medal*), it is clear that Räsänen relied upon the nude male form in this 1977 specimen celebrating the Renaissance polymath, Michelangelo.

Staying with the work of Räsänen, there is this larger, but similarly conceptualized, three-piece medal from the year prior (1976), commissioned by the L. M. Ericcson company on account of the centennial anniversary of the telecommunications giant. Here you can see that, once again, the nude form is a key design element...



What's somewhat different between this and previous three-piece medal is the fact that it features the third (central) part being silvered, oval, and serving a different role in tying everything together. In the case of either of these medals issued by Räsänen, the accompanying videos are a must in order to determine in-hand feel and, quite simply, how expertly they were designed with respect to fitting all together into one impressive piece.



Moving outside of the spicier realm of numismatics, we'll go to the opposite end of the spectrum, as we have this 1838 silver medal from the papal reign of Gregorius XVI. Given its blazing reverse nature, this superbly toned architectural medal celebrates renovations done to the structure that would later become known as the Wedekind palazzo...



At the time, however, it was serving as the Pontifical Post Office. In the 20th century, it would serve as the offices for the newspaper, *Il Tempo*.

Meanwhile, here's a stunningly large (91mm) bronze medal in a massive PCGS SP-63 holder that hits upon various collecting interests: *Washingtoniana*? Check. *Columbiana*? Check. *World's Fairs & Expos*? Check. *Glossy & Choice*? Check...



There's a lot going on with this one, not the least of which includes two portrait medallions of Washington and Columbus, along with a figure of Liberty and a radiant cross shining down upon the expo grounds in Chicago. This exceptional offering presents superior quality compared to others of the type, which tend to suffer from scuffs, staining, and rim bruising.



For something different, we also have three pieces of jewelry in this upload. All date to the early-mid portion of the 20th century, all are pin-backed, and all are fully functioning and wearable. One of the three is this Swedish-designed "Three Leaves" silver brooch from Ateljé Stigbert, featuring the firm's iconic use of "50s Modernism."



For all of this upload's items, please click [here](#) or on the banner art below, and be sure to stay tuned for our next upload at the beginning of September. This upload will be another installment of Karl Goetz medals.



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Pleasanton, Calif
+1 (717) 917-0047

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